

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were pending in this application. No claims have been added with this Amendment. Claims 1-5, 10, and 18 have been previously cancelled. Claim 11 is currently cancelled via this Amendment. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment claims 6-9, 12-17, 19-26 will be pending.

Claim Objection

The Examiner objected to claim 9 because it was cancelled in "REMARKS" but not "listing of claims" in previous response. Applicant has amended claim 6 to have the limitations of allowable claim 11. Applicant wishes to keep claim 9 pending as dependent upon amended claim 6 having the limitations of allowable claim 11. Reconsideration of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 6-9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mizuno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,977,904).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-17 and 19-26 are allowed.

Claim 11 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 6 to have the limitations of allowable claim 11. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 6 is in condition for allowance. Claims 7-9, and 12 are dependent, directly or indirectly, upon claim 6 and thus are also in condition for allowance.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

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